ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

A Monthly Report by the **NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY**
Prepared in Coordination with the **UNITED STATES BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS**

August 1988 | Wesley S. Noyes, Jr., Editor, Supervisor, Economic Analysis and Reports | (603)228-4124

August Unemployment Rate 2.2%, Down from July; Vermont Posted Lowest July Rate, Followed by New Hampshire

Following normally observed seasonal patterns (see graph on page 2), the unemployment rate in New Hampshire dropped to 2.2 percent in August from 2.5 percent in July. This is typically caused by an end to factory shutdowns in manufacturing that occur during July. Some workers who did not qualify for vacation pay during these shutdowns registered at local offices of the Department of Employment Security. As a result, these workers were counted as unemployed. Their return to work by August tends to decrease the number of unemployed workers and reduce the unemployment rate. In addition, youths and other summer-season workers tend to have been absorbed into the employed labor force by the time calculations are made for the month of August.

August continued to display the patterns observed in earlier months of 1988. Other than January and February, the unemployment rate was less than that for twelve months earlier, and considerably less than twenty-four months earlier. The unemployment rate was 0.1 percentage points below the rate for August 1987 and 0.4 percentage points less than the rate for August 1986.

A comparison of July rates from the individual states shows that Vermont had the lowest unemployment rate in the nation (2.3 percent), followed by New Hampshire (2.5 percent). New England states recorded four of the seven lowest rates and five of the ten lowest rates; Maine tied for twentieth with a 4.7 percent unemployment rate. All New England states maintained unemployment rates below the national average. Louisiana continued to report the highest unemployment rate in the nation, 10.2 percent.

The national not-seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for August was 5.4 percent, lower than both the 5.5 percent in July and the 5.8 percent rate in August 1987. Nationally, the number of unemployed was 6,659,000 in August, down 164,000 from July and 429,000 from twelve months earlier. The United States civilian labor force was estimated at 123,396,000 in August, a decrease of 492,000 from July, but 1,782,000 more than in August 1987.

Unemployment Trends in New Hampshire

Unemployment throughout the state was estimated to be 13,890 in August. This represented a slight decline of 1,330 from July and a drop of 450 from August 1987. The slight drop from a year earlier can be attributed to the strength of the New Hampshire economy and low unemployment in August 1987.

There have been indications that some sectors in the New Hampshire economy, such as the electrical and electronic machinery and supplies industry (SIC 36), are undergoing some transition and change. Due to changes in technology in this industry some firms are reducing their employment, primarily through release of production workers. Because of the overall strong manufacturing climate, however, these changes are not expected to significantly influence unemployment rates.

In August, the Keene Labor Market Area (LMA) registered the lowest area unemployment rate (1.2 percent), followed by the Berlin LMA (1.3 percent) and the Laconia LMA (1.4 percent). In fact, the entire northern and western regions of the state recorded unemployment rates of 1.5 percent or less. This can be attributed to a number of factors including the tourist season, expansion of industry into those areas in response to available land, and growth of retail sectors as incomes rise. The highest unemployment rate was again seen in the New Hampshire portion of the Lowell MA Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA) (consisting of Pelham) at 5.1 percent. The next highest rate was calculated for the New Hampshire portion of the Lawrence-Haverhill MA PMSA at 4.3 percent. A comparison of August 1988 unemployment rates with those of twelve months earlier reveals that seven areas experienced a decline in the rate, two areas had no change, and three areas (the Concord LMA, Manchester MSA, and Nashua PMSA) registered increases.

Employment Trends in New Hampshire

Estimated nonagricultural wage and salary employment increased from July to August (+5,100). The manufacturing sector accounted for approximately two-thirds of this increase (+3,550), a change attributable to return to full production schedules following vacation shutdowns. The

manufacturing increase was roughly evenly split between the durable (+1,750) and nondurable (+1,800) goods sectors. However, this month-to-month change masks the year-to-year changes that have occurred in manufacturing. There has been expansion in virtually all durable goods industries. Nondurable goods employment has increased only 500 since last August, with losses in the Textile Mill Products, Apparel, and Leather and Leather Products industries, and a large increase (+700) in the Printing, Publishing, and Allied Products industry (more detailed numbers by industry group are published on page 4).

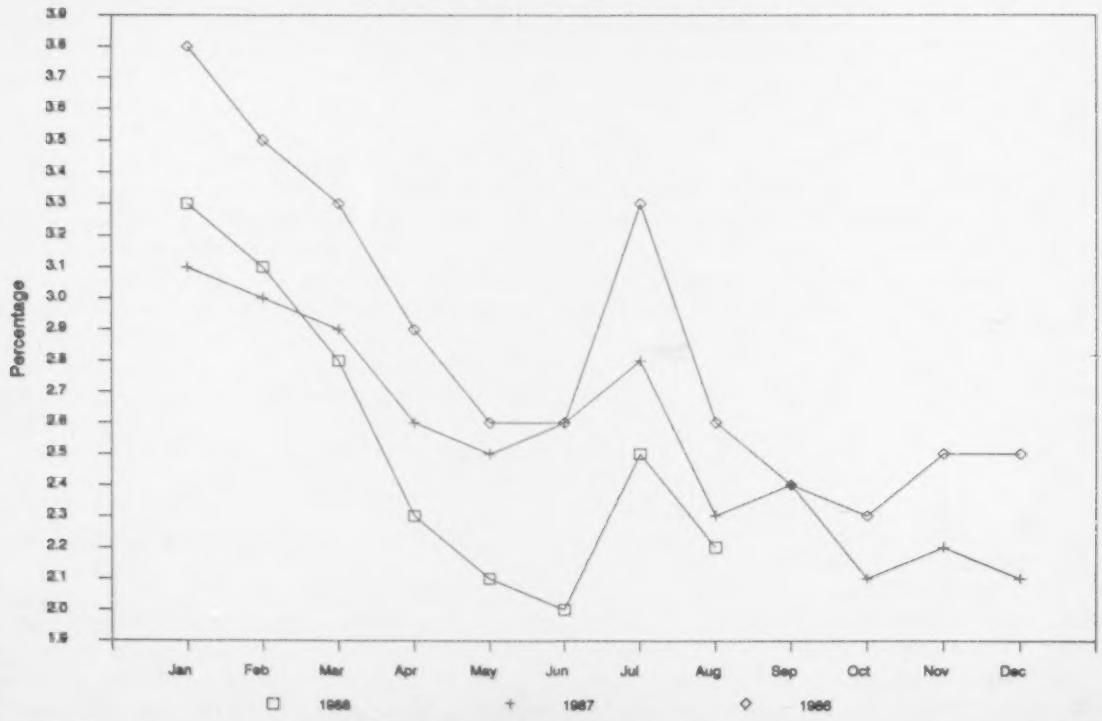
Nonmanufacturing employment increases over the month were observed in the Construction, Trade, and Services Industries. Again, these increases have been influenced by seasonal factors. The Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate (FIRE) industry employment estimates dropped (-50) over the month, as did those for Government (-800). While the Government drop was caused mostly by seasonal declines in education, the change in FIRE is more intriguing. From August 1986 to August 1987 FIRE had increased by 3,500 employees, with July 1987 to August 1987 employment up 250. From August 1987 to this August, FIRE employment estimates were up by 1,850, with a drop of 50 employees estimated between July and August of this year. This may be another signal that rapid expansion in the real estate and banking sectors has tapered off, in part due to rising interest rates. However, employment growth has remained strong in the Wholesale and Retail Trade and Services industries. The Trade sector employment increased 6,900 from August 1986 to August 1987, and another 4,350 to August 1988. The Services sector added 4,850 and 6,600 jobs during those respective periods.

Manufacturing Hours and Earnings Affected by End of July Shutdowns

Based on a sample of employers, average weekly earnings for the manufacturing sector increased slightly from comparable figures in July, moving from $382.97 to $386.23. This was primarily due to increased average weekly hours, which rose 0.5 hours, rather than average hourly earnings, which were estimated to be $0.04 lower in August ($9.68) than in July ($9.72). August figures reflect the return of employees and a full work schedule following July vacation shutdowns of many manufacturing firms. The electrical products group maintains the highest average hourly wage ($10.90) among durable goods industries, while the food and kindred products group had the highest hourly rate ($11.83) among nondurable goods industries.

Note: Although monthly changes are included in this publication, it should be noted that these figures are not seasonally adjusted. Over-the-month comparisons may be affected by seasonal changes and thus could present misleading representation of underlying trends. To eliminate bias, it is more useful to compare any non-seasonally-adjusted statistic with that of twelve months earlier.

New Hampshire Unemployment Rate



TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE BY AREA AND COUNTY

	UNEMPLOYMENT*								CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE				
	August 1988		July 1988		August 1987		Numerical Change From Previous:		August	July	August	Numerical Change From Previous:	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Month	Year	1988	1988	1987	Month	Year
United States**	6,659	5.4	6,823	5.5	7,088	5.8	(164)	(429)	123,396	123,888	121,614	(492)	1,782
New Hampshire	13,890	2.2	15,220	2.5	14,340	2.3	(1,330)	(450)	618,240	609,520	613,120	8,720	5,120
Berlin LMA	350	1.3	600	2.2	640	2.3	(250)	(290)	26,800	27,440	27,520	(640)	(720)
Claremont LMA	640	1.5	880	2.1	600	1.5	(240)	40	41,500	41,490	40,560	10	940
Concord LMA	1,160	2.0	1,280	2.3	1,010	1.8	(120)	150	56,750	55,580	55,590	1,170	1,160
Keene LMA	550	1.2	700	1.6	660	1.6	(150)	(110)	44,010	43,670	42,550	340	1,460
Laconia LMA	850	1.4	1,200	2.0	970	1.7	(350)	(120)	59,840	59,120	58,440	720	1,400
Littleton LMA	310	1.5	460	2.4	300	1.5	(150)	10	20,050	19,300	19,830	750	220
Manchester MSA	1,920	2.2	1,940	2.3	1,640	1.9	(20)	280	85,490	83,290	86,260	2,200	(770)
Nashua PMSA	2,870	2.9	2,630	2.7	2,590	2.6	240	280	99,560	98,150	98,650	1,410	910
NH portion Lawrence-Haverhill, Ma PMSA***	2,150	4.3	2,000	4.0	2,440	4.8	150	(290)	50,430	49,810	50,940	220	40
Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester NH+ Me MSA	2,400	1.7	2,910	2.1	2,730	2.0	(510)	(330)	138,940	136,190	137,930	2,750	1,010
Unattached Estimating Area****	640	3.1	680	3.3	770	3.7	(40)	(130)	20,730	20,510	20,690	220	40
NH portion Lowell Ma PMSA	270	5.1	230	4.4	290	5.5	40	(20)	5,260	5,210	5,320	50	(60)
Counties													
Belknap	420	1.4	620	2.0	540	1.8	(200)	(120)	30,820	30,460	30,170	360	650
Carroll	300	1.5	300	1.5	280	1.4	0	20	19,830	19,810	19,750	20	80
Cheshire	500	1.3	660	1.7	610	1.6	(160)	(110)	39,270	38,990	37,980	280	1,290
Coos	340	1.6	620	2.9	600	2.8	(280)	(260)	21,310	21,610	21,780	(300)	(470)
Grafton	600	1.4	890	2.1	590	1.4	(290)	10	44,030	43,320	43,190	710	840
Hillsborough	4,930	2.6	4,850	2.6	4,430	2.4	80	500	186,410	183,080	185,950	3,330	460
Merrimack	1,320	1.9	1,330	2.0	1,140	1.7	(10)	180	67,810	66,360	66,560	1,450	1,250
Rockingham	3,770	3.0	3,460	2.8	4,270	3.4	310	(500)	125,800	123,570	125,800	2,230	0
Strafford	1,330	2.2	1,910	3.1	1,520	2.5	(580)	(190)	61,650	60,930	61,110	720	540
Sullivan	380	1.8	580	2.7	360	1.7	(200)	20	21,310	21,390	20,830	(80)	480

* *Based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics "43 Step Method" handbook adjusted to the Current Population Survey (CPS) estimates.*

** *In thousands, not seasonally adjusted.*

*** *New Hampshire Portion of the Lawrence-Haverhill, Massachusetts Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area which includes Salem and twelve small towns.*

**** *Includes twenty towns previously in either Dover, Portsmouth, Manchester or Nashua LMAS.*

NEW HAMPSHIRE CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, TOTAL EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT AS OF THE MIDDLE OF THE MONTH

	Number of Workers			Numerical Change * From Previous:	
	August 1988	July 1988	August 1987	Month	Year
Labor Force Data **					
1. CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	618,240	609,520	613,120	8,720	5,120
2. UNEMPLOYMENT	13,890	15,220	14,340	(1,330)	(450)
PERCENT OF LABOR FORCE	2.2	2.5	2.3	----	----
3. EMPLOYMENT TOTAL	604,250	594,200	598,780	10,050	5,470
4. PERSONS INVOLVED IN LABOR DISPUTES	100	100	0	0	100
Employment by Industry ***					
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT	544,150	539,050	526,250	5,100	17,900
MANUFACTURING	121,000	117,450	118,500	3,550	2,500
Durable Goods	84,550	82,800	82,550	1,750	2,000
Lumber and wood products	6,400	5,800	6,200	600	200
Furniture and fixtures	1,700	1,700	1,550	0	150
Stone and clay products	3,850	3,800	3,700	50	150
Primary metal products	4,500	4,500	4,400	0	100
Fabricated metal products	6,950	6,800	6,500	150	450
Machinery (except electrical)	26,050	25,850	25,700	200	350
Electrical products	23,600	23,200	23,150	400	450
Miscellaneous products	2,100	1,900	1,950	200	150
Other durable goods	9,400	9,250	9,400	150	0
Nondurable Goods	36,450	34,650	35,950	1,800	500
Food and kindred products	3,000	2,800	2,850	200	150
Textile mill products	3,700	3,450	3,900	250	(200)
Apparel	1,750	1,450	2,050	300	(300)
Paper and allied products	5,750	5,450	5,500	300	250
Printing, publishing, and allied	8,800	8,800	8,100	0	700
Leather and leather products	3,500	3,000	3,950	500	(450)
Other nondurable goods	9,950	9,700	9,600	250	350
NONMANUFACTURING	423,150	421,600	407,750	1,550	15,400
Construction (including mining)	44,150	43,850	42,050	300	2,100
Transportation, communication, and utilities	17,200	17,200	16,900	0	300
Trade	138,650	137,950	134,300	700	4,350
Finance, insurance, and real estate	34,500	34,550	32,650	(50)	1,850
Service industry and other	126,600	125,200	120,000	1,400	6,600
Government	62,050	62,850	61,850	(800)	200
Federal	8,700	8,700	8,550	0	150
State	18,000	18,500	16,950	(500)	1,050
Local	35,350	35,650	36,350	(300)	(1,000)
Persons involved in labor disputes (not included in Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment Total above)	100	100	0	0	100

** Numbers in parentheses indicate negative numbers*

*** By place of residence*

**** By place of establishment*

MSA LABOR FORCE, TOTAL EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT, AND NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT AS OF THE MIDDLE OF THE MONTH

	Manchester MSA					Nashua PMSA					Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA				
	Number of Workers			Numerical Change***		Number of Workers			Numerical Change***		Number of Workers			Numerical Change***	
	August 1988	July 1988	August 1987	From Previous: Month	Year	August 1988	July 1988	August 1987	From Previous: Month	Year	August 1988	July 1988	August 1987	From Previous: Month	Year
Labor Force Data*															
1. Civilian Labor Force	85,490	83,290	86,260	2,200	(770)	99,560	98,150	98,650	1,410	910	138,940	136,190	137,930	2,750	1,010
2. Unemployment	1,920	1,940	1,640	(20)	280	2,870	2,630	2,590	240	280	2,400	2,910	2,730	(510)	(330)
Percentage of Labor Force	2.2	2.3	1.9	----	----	2.9	2.7	2.6	----	----	1.7	2.1	2.0	----	----
3. Employment Total	83,470	81,250	84,620	2,220	(1,150)	96,690	95,520	96,060	1,170	630	136,540	133,280	135,200	3,260	1,340
4. Persons Involved in Labor Disputes	100	100	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Employment by Industry**															
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT	86,300	85,250	85,450	1,050	850	95,850	95,200	93,500	650	2,350	116,550	114,450	113,400	2,100	3,150
MANUFACTURING	11,200	10,700	12,250	500	(1,050)	37,350	36,850	37,200	500	150	20,750	20,050	20,200	700	550
Durable Goods	6,600	6,250	7,550	350	(950)	31,250	30,750	30,900	500	350	13,350	13,150	12,950	200	400
Machinery and electrical products	3,500	3,250	4,400	250	(900)	23,600	23,500	23,250	100	350					
Other durable goods	3,100	3,000	3,150	100	(50)	7,650	7,250	7,650	400	0					
Nondurable Goods	4,600	4,450	4,700	150	(100)	6,100	6,100	6,300	0	(200)	7,400	6,900	7,250	500	150
Textile mill products	1,100	1,050	1,300	50	(200)										
Other nondurable goods	3,500	3,400	3,400	100	100										
NONMANUFACTURING	75,100	74,550	73,200	550	1,900	58,500	58,350	56,300	150	2,200	95,800	94,400	93,200	1,400	2,600
Construction (including mining)	6,850	6,650	6,550	200	300	5,950	6,050	5,750	(100)	200	7,000	7,100	6,800	(100)	200
Transportation, communication, and utilities	5,100	5,300	4,900	(200)	200	2,200	2,250	2,050	(50)	150	3,450	3,300	2,900	150	550
Trade	24,000	23,800	23,500	200	500	21,300	21,300	21,050	0	250	33,400	33,050	32,200	350	1,200
Finance, insurance, and real estate	8,800	8,650	8,600	150	200	4,250	4,200	4,050	50	200	6,950	7,000	6,750	(50)	200
Service industry & other	21,900	21,750	21,100	150	800	18,650	18,500	17,600	150	1,050	23,800	23,500	21,650	300	2,150
Government	8,450	8,400	8,550	50	(100)	6,150	6,050	5,800	100	350	21,200	20,450	22,900	750	(1,700)
Federal	2,700	2,700	2,700	0	0	900	900	900	0	0	10,500	10,450	10,350	50	150
State	1,100	1,050	1,300	50	(200)	250	250	200	0	50	3,200	2,600	4,500	600	(1,300)
Local	4,650	4,650	4,550	0	100	5,000	4,900	4,700	100	300	7,500	7,400	8,050	100	(550)
Persons involved in labor disputes (not included in Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment above)															

By place of residence
*** By place of establishment*
**** Numbers in parentheses indicate negative numbers*

Manchester MSA – includes the city of Manchester and the towns of Allenstown, Auburn, Bedford, Candia, Goffstown, and Hooksett.
Nashua PMSA – includes the city of Nashua and the towns of Amherst, Brookline, Hollis, Hudson, Litchfield, Londonderry, Merrimack, Milford, Mont Vernon, and Wilton.
Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA – includes the New Hampshire cities of Dover, Portsmouth, Rochester, and Somersworth, the New Hampshire towns of Barrington, Durham, Exeter, Farmington, Greenland, Hampton, Lee, Madbury, Milton, New Castle, Newfields, Newington, Newmarket, North Hampton, Rollinsford, Rye, and Stratham, and the Maine towns of Berwick, Eliot, Kittery, North Berwick, Ogunquit, South Berwick, Wells, and York.

AVERAGE EARNINGS AND HOURS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Aug 1988	Jul 1988	Aug 1987	Aug 1988	Jul 1988	Aug 1987	Aug 1988	Jul 1988	Aug 1987
All Manufacturing	$386.23	$382.97	$379.03	39.9	39.4	40.8	$9.68	$9.72	$9.29
Durable goods	389.27	385.53	389.22	39.4	39.1	41.1	9.88	9.86	9.47
Lumber and wood products	315.61	305.15	313.63	37.0	35.4	39.5	8.53	8.62	7.94
Furniture and fixtures	310.75	305.88	331.63	40.2	40.3	42.3	7.73	7.59	7.84
Stone and clay products	389.16	377.57	357.06	42.3	41.4	40.9	9.20	9.12	8.73
Primary metal products	414.29	425.30	415.51	43.2	43.8	43.6	9.59	9.71	9.53
Fabricated metal products	403.50	393.41	392.90	41.3	40.6	42.8	9.77	9.69	9.18
Machinery (except electrical)	429.83	423.36	416.02	42.6	42.0	42.8	10.09	10.08	9.72
Electrical products	385.86	374.83	403.85	35.4	34.9	39.4	10.90	10.74	10.25
Miscellaneous products	299.92	331.50	322.22	38.8	39.7	41.1	7.73	8.35	7.84
Other durable goods	386.32	392.35	383.25	39.3	40.2	40.3	9.83	9.76	9.51
Nondurable goods	379.25	377.88	356.96	41.0	40.2	40.2	9.25	9.40	8.88
Food and kindred products	477.93	478.08	463.73	40.4	41.9	40.5	11.83	11.41	11.45
Textile mill products	321.17	299.82	322.75	39.7	38.0	42.3	8.09	7.89	7.63
Apparel	250.18	242.79	247.38	36.9	34.1	38.0	6.78	7.12	6.51
Paper and allied products	499.91	492.44	514.92	46.3	46.5	48.9	10.35	10.59	10.53
Printing, publishing, and allied	378.51	387.84	361.75	37.7	38.4	37.8	10.04	10.10	9.57
Leather and leather products	213.24	242.52	179.59	35.6	37.6	32.3	5.99	6.45	5.56
Footwear	212.77	246.62	200.36	35.7	38.0	36.1	5.96	6.49	5.55
Other nondurable goods	406.51	387.46	368.15	43.2	40.7	40.5	9.41	9.52	9.09

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 43%

Total Production Workers: 82,100

Firms Reporting: 294

Manchester MSA

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Aug 1988	Jul 1988	Aug 1987	Aug 1988	Jul 1988	Aug 1987	Aug 1988	Jul 1988	Aug 1987
All Manufacturing	$377.71	$385.32	$375.84	39.1	39.0	40.5	$9.66	$9.88	$9.28
Durable goods	371.26	385.88	391.84	37.2	37.5	39.7	9.98	10.29	9.87
Machinery and electrical products	376.92	387.21	398.97	38.5	38.3	40.3	9.79	10.11	9.90
Other durable goods	364.44	384.93	381.40	35.8	36.8	38.8	10.18	10.46	9.83
Nondurable goods	387.58	383.46	349.03	41.9	41.1	41.8	9.25	9.33	8.35
Textiles and apparel	342.29	302.25	306.75	40.7	37.5	40.9	8.41	8.06	7.50
Other nondurable goods	402.70	410.31	365.85	42.3	42.3	42.1	9.52	9.70	8.69

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 48%

Total Production Workers: 8,350

Firms Reporting: 36

Nashua PMSA

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Aug 1988	Jul 1988	Aug 1987	Aug 1988	Jul 1988	Aug 1987	Aug 1988	Jul 1988	Aug 1987
All Manufacturing	$471.24	$463.74	$454.58	39.7	39.2	40.3	$11.87	$11.83	$11.28
Durable goods	473.61	470.84	460.32	39.9	39.6	40.7	11.87	11.89	11.31
Machinery and electrical products	510.90	494.34	493.29	39.0	38.5	40.5	13.10	12.84	12.18
Other durable goods	392.70	416.94	387.92	41.6	42.2	41.4	9.44	9.88	9.37
Nondurable goods	464.91	434.25	429.28	39.2	37.5	38.5	11.86	11.58	11.15

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 48%

Total Production Workers: 20,150

Firms Reporting: 57

Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Aug 1988	Jul 1988	Aug 1987	Aug 1988	July 1988	Aug 1987	Aug 1988	Jul 1988	Aug 1987
All Manufacturing	$366.17	$366.99	$367.48	39.5	39.0	39.9	$9.27	$9.41	$9.21
Durable goods	400.97	402.59	401.76	39.7	39.9	40.5	10.10	10.09	9.92
Nondurable goods	306.93	301.76	306.52	39.3	37.3	38.8	7.81	8.09	7.90

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 46%

Total Production Workers: 14,250

Firms Reporting: 38

New Hampshire Labor Supply and Demand

In August there were 9,386 active applicants registered at all local offices. This was 173 less than the July level of 9,559. The number of job openings received for the same period increased 792 from July's level of 1,614 to the August level of 2,406.

During August, many plants reopened after vacation shutdowns and students with summer jobs left to return to school allowing active applicants a greater opportunity for employment. A labor shortage in the State also gives applicants and others a better chance to get a job. However, very low unemployment is not necessarily all good because, while workers may have a better chance at getting a job fairly quickly, there is the risk of economic slowdown because of lack of workers for new businesses. One of the by-products of the low unemployment rate, according to **Dodge Construction Reports**, is the increased production of pre-assembled and pre-engineered buildings which will hold down construction employment in the future.

A comparison of construction, trade, and services employment over the last three years indicates employment growth may be slowing. Services employment increased 6,700 between August 1985-86, 5,400 between August 1986-87 and 6,600 between August 1987-88. Trade and construction each had slowing increases in employment for the same time periods: 6,700; 5,400; and 4,350 for trade and 3,450; 2,700; and 2,100 for construction. Manufacturing employment during this period fell 3,200 between August 1985-86 but gained 1,050 between August 1986-87 and 2,500 between August 1987-88. A slowdown in employment growth would ease the labor shortage but also increase the difficulty of finding a job.

The Dover local office reported a decline of 444 active applicants, from 1,396 in July to 952 in August. The greatest decline in the number of active applicants occurred in construction occupations, indication building is still proceeding at a brisk pace in the Dover area. Construction employment has maintained a consistent level or increased in most parts of the State despite a slowdown in residential building. Professional (-59), clerical (-58), machine trades (-42), and benchwork active applicants in Dover have all reported sharp declines in numbers as factories resumed full operation after July shutdowns and schools prepared for fall openings. Dover has a higher rate (40 percent) of manufacturing employment than most other local office areas, which is reflected in an abrupt decline in the number of active applicants between July and August.

Keene (-135) and Lebanon (-106) each had fewer active applicants in August than in July. About half (-63) of the reduction in the number of active applicants in Keene occurred in professional, technical and managerial (-18) and clerical (-45) occupations as many of the staff and workers return to Keene State College and public schools for the start of another school year. The Lebanon local office also showed a decline in professional (-27) and clerical (-12) active applicants due to their proximity to Dartmouth College, as well as a decline in structural active applicants (-15) between July and August.

Claremont (+323) and Berlin (+292) were the only two local offices that reported any significant increase in the number of active applicants. In both local office areas clerical (+81 Berlin, +62 Claremont) services (+52 Berlin, +40 Claremont) and structural work (+63 Berlin, +42 Claremont) were the occupations reporting the largest increase in the number of active applicants. About three quarters of the increase in the number of job openings (+792) came from clerical (+193), structural workers (+159), services workers (+139) and professional technical and managerial (+98). The number of clerical job openings continues to increase. According to **New Hampshire Employment Outlook 1985 - 1997**, published by the New Hampshire Department of Employment Security, it will be among the top ten occupational categories by number of job openings to the year 1997. Portsmouth had an increase of 65 job openings in clerical occupations between July and August, while Keene (+52), Concord (+29), Dover (+23) and Laconia (+23) all reported healthy increases. Structural job openings (407) increased by 159 from 248 job openings in July, with significant increases in Berlin (6-48), Lebanon (9-51), and Portsmouth (16-48). Carpentry will lead most other construction occupations in the future as they are projected to be twelfth in terms of the number of job openings available to 1997, while electricians are listed in eightieth place and plumbers ninety-first.

Services job openings (+139) showed the greatest increases in Nashua (12 for July, 36 for August), Portsmouth (23 for July, 44 for August), and Concord (6 for July, 26 for August). Professional, technical and managerial job openings increased by 98 from last month with most of that increase taking place in Dover (+31), Portsmouth (+19), and Laconia and Nashua (each +10).

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ACTIVE APPLICANTS BY OCCUPATION, AUGUST 1988

Area	Professional, Technical, & Managerial	Clerical	Sales	Services	Farm	Processing	Machine Trades	Benchwork	Structural Work	Freight & Transportation	Packaging & Material Handling	Miscellaneous	Total
New Hampshire	1,822	1,949	512	1,410	114	159	597	627	1,333	329	464	70	9,386
Berlin	37	153	49	126	10	62	30	19	126	38	20	2	672
Claremont	91	169	20	108	8	5	101	44	99	19	76	4	744
Concord	282	239	57	123	25	7	75	53	161	33	27	10	1,092
Conway	30	23	10	22	2	1	5	6	23	2	3	0	127
Dover	172	233	41	141	12	17	66	69	148	27	22	4	952
Keene	116	122	45	116	4	3	48	33	86	21	33	2	629
Laconia	91	134	32	90	12	6	46	34	88	20	11	1	565
Lebanon	80	59	14	29	2	0	9	13	33	4	4	3	250
Littleton	45	88	12	81	4	3	27	25	58	11	7	0	361
Manchester	236	264	99	239	10	22	70	122	205	67	117	29	1,480
Nashua	308	232	74	155	15	20	69	153	120	39	82	6	1,273
Portsmouth	239	183	39	158	8	10	36	26	161	42	54	4	960
Salem	95	50	20	22	2	3	15	30	25	6	8	5	281

Source: Employment Security Automated Reporting System - Table A96

JOB OPENINGS RECEIVED BY OCCUPATION, AUGUST 1988

Area	Professional, Technical, & Managerial	Clerical	Sales	Services	Farm	Processing	Machine Trades	Benchwork	Structural Work	Motor Freight & Transportation	Packaging & Material Handling	Miscellaneous	Total
New Hampshire	198	526	143	459	67	31	161	159	407	85	170	5	2,411
Berlin	0	21	8	51	11	0	5	4	48	1	40	0	189
Claremont	8	19	4	14	8	1	17	6	16	2	14	0	109
Concord	4	57	7	26	14	1	7	16	28	5	3	0	168
Conway	6	10	9	12	0	1	2	1	9	2	8	0	60
Dover	49	40	15	43	9	5	15	22	44	8	16	0	266
Keene	8	70	6	30	1	0	24	20	24	11	17	0	211
Laconia	18	35	27	44	7	6	9	9	22	7	3	0	187
Lebanon	10	8	8	15	4	0	8	6	51	0	11	1	122
Littleton	5	31	14	58	4	2	10	5	27	4	3	1	164
Manchester	7	36	17	40	4	4	21	33	52	17	20	1	252
Nashua	12	28	8	36	2	6	18	21	25	8	15	0	179
Portsmouth	26	142	17	44	2	2	15	5	48	17	15	2	335
Salem	5	26	3	20	0	3	9	11	11	3	4	0	95
All Others	40	3	0	26	1	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	74

Source: Employment Security Automated Reporting System - Table 10

ACTIVE APPLICANTS BY SEX, AGE, MINORITY STATUS, AND VETERAN STATUS, AUGUST 1988

Area	Male	Female	Eligible Claimants	Minority	Veterans	Age < 45	Age > 45	Total Active Applicants	Unfilled Openings: Total	Unfilled Openings: 30 Days +
New Hampshire	5,328	4,058	2,782	333	1,695	7,747	1,639	9,386	3,080	1,654
Berlin	501	171	66	6	39	604	68	672	315	164
Claremont	576	168	66	5	87	669	75	744	110	50
Concord	614	478	394	20	226	901	191	1,092	198	109
Conway	76	51	42	2	17	99	28	127	98	63
Dover	469	483	293	29	189	772	180	952	328	130
Keene	320	309	147	6	143	510	119	629	195	102
Laconia	311	254	148	7	88	463	102	565	284	175
Lebanon	149	101	63	5	61	189	61	250	115	29
Littleton	177	184	52	3	37	281	80	361	140	52
Manchester	816	664	544	78	289	1,213	267	1,480	237	99
Nashua	646	627	562	114	214	1,037	236	1,273	196	89
Portsmouth	537	423	260	49	257	789	171	960	423	280
Salem	136	145	145	9	48	220	61	281	179	119
All Others									262	193

Source: Employment Security Automated Reporting System - Table A96

JOB OPENINGS RECEIVED BY INDUSTRY, JULY 1988

Area	Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Construction & Mining	Manufacturing	Transportation, Communication & Utilities	Trade	Finance Insurance, Real Estate	Services	Public Administration	Total	Government Openings in Columns 1-8*
New Hampshire	33	315	617	62	527	69	685	104	2,412	201
Berlin	1	41	58	1	30	7	49	2	189	2
Claremont	6	13	39	11	17	7	11	4	108	6
Concord	10	25	21	0	22	7	41	42	168	43
Conway	0	7	7	0	29	4	12	1	60	0
Dover	4	16	64	1	68	4	105	4	266	60
Keene	1	19	50	7	45	6	78	5	211	7
Laconia	5	26	25	2	66	5	51	7	187	14
Lebanon	0	36	31	7	18	3	27	2	124	12
Littleton	3	24	26	2	43	9	56	1	164	2
Manchester	0	43	67	8	52	4	74	4	252	6
Nashua	0	16	64	7	40	9	38	5	179	5
Portsmouth	1	41	134	13	71	2	65	8	335	22
Salem	1	7	27	2	24	1	30	3	95	3
All Others	1	1	4	1	2	1	48	16	74	19

Source: Employment Security Automated Reporting System - Table 10

* *This column includes Job Openings received from government-owned-and-operated employers in all types of industries. It consists of numbers that are included in the first eight columns.*

U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, AUGUST 1988

	1988	1987	1986	1985
1982-84=100				
All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)				
August Index	119.0	114.4	109.7	108.0
Percent Change From Previous August	4.0	4.3	1.6	3.3
Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W)				
August Index	117.7	113.3	108.6	107.3
Percent Change From Previous August	3.9	4.3	1.2	3.0
1967=100				
All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)				
August Index	356.6	342.7	328.6	323.5
Percent Change From Previous August	4.1	4.3	1.6	3.4
Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W)				
August Index	350.7	337.4	323.4	319.6
Percent Change From Previous August	3.9	4.3	1.2	3.0

Note: This table represents a change in format from previous issues. In the past we have shown the calendar year averages for each of the preceding three years along with the current month's indicies. The new format shows the indicies for the current month and those for the same month in each of the three previous years. This enables you to compare changes in the CPI indicies over four twelve-month periods.

AUGUST CPI INDEXES BY CATEGORY
(1982-84=100, except where otherwise noted)

Categories	CPI-U August Index	Unadjusted Percent Change from: August 1987	July 1988	CPI-W August Index
All Items	119.0	4.0	0.4	117.7
All Items (1967=100)	356.6	4.1	0.5	350.7
Food and Beverages	119.4	4.9	0.5	119.1
Housing	119.5	3.6	0.3	117.8
Apparel and Upkeep	112.6	2.9	-0.1	112.2
Transportation	109.6	2.9	0.6	109.4
Medical Care	139.9	6.6	0.4	140.3
Entertainment	120.7	4.4	0.2	120.1
Other Goods and Services	137.5	7.0	0.7	137.2

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE AUGUST CPI-U

The Fruits and Vegetables component of the Food and Beverages category showed the greatest increase of any component index, up 10.6% since August 1987. This increase was a result of the midwest drought. Other drought-related food price increases were more dramatic for the shorter time span since July 1988: the Cereals and Bakery Products component rose 1.6%, and the Fats and Oils component increased 2.0%. Fuel Oil and Other Household Fuel Commodities had the lowest index of any component (76.3). This index fell 0.8% from the July level. In contrast, the price of gasoline rose 2.3% from July. The index for gasoline (84.2) still appears low relative to other components, but the base period (1982-84) was a time of high prices for gasoline and other oil products. The index for the Medical Care category did not increase as much from July to August (+0.4%) as it had from June to July (+0.8%). Personal and educational services rose 1.1% in price from the previous month.

WEEKLY CLAIMS FILED DURING AUGUST
CLASSIFIED BY LOCAL OFFICE

Area	U. C. Unemployment Compensation		State Workers (Only)		U. C. Local Government		Ex-Military Servicemen (UCX Only)		U.C. Federal Employees No U.I.	
	Initial Claims	Continued Claims	Initial Claims	Continued Claims	Initial Claims	Continued Claims	Initial Claims	Continued Claims	Initial Claims	Continued Claims
All Offices	2,223	8,543	5	14	3	13	39	9	15	16
Berlin	46	191	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Claremont	111	353	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Concord	204	761	0	3	0	0	5	2	5	0
Conway	43	128	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dover	276	1,065	1	2	0	4	11	2	3	3
Keene	76	335	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0
Laconia	142	423	1	5	0	1	1	1	0	2
Lebanon	37	151	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4
Littleton	58	155	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Manchester	480	1,931	2	2	1	1	1	0	3	3
Nashua	317	1,213	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0
Portsmouth	175	626	0	1	0	3	9	1	0	0
Salem	108	369	0	0	1	0	6	0	0	0
Liable Interstate	150	842	0	1	0	1	1	1	2	4

The average payment for a week of total unemployment: $127.00

The Unemployment Compensation Fund Balance at the End of the Month: $182,000,123.40

Net contributions received during the month: $3,057,925.54

Net benefits paid during the month: $857,646.91

Interest Received: $3,668,834.08

PERMANENT MASS LAYOFF AND PLANT CLOSING PROGRAM

The Permanent Mass Layoff and Plant Closing (PMLPC) Program represents a standardized automated approach to identifying and describing the impact of major permanent employment cutbacks. Through this program a more timely and accurate indication of what types of businesses and workers are affected by economic downturns can be discovered. This information, in turn, helps both businesses to formulate plans for expansion and government to implement policies to assist affected workers and industries.

The program began in Fiscal Year 1984 with eight states signing cooperative agreements to begin developmental program work during Fiscal Year 1985, which, when completed, would provide (1) the number of plant closings, (2) the number of workers on layoff, (3) the location of the affected establishment, and (4) the industries involved - the minimum information required by the Act.

The PMLPC Program utilizes existing Unemployment Insurance (UI) records and automated data processing files, with supplementary telephone calls to employers. Its major features include: (1) the identification of major layoffs and closings through initial UI claims filed against the identified last employer; (2) the use of existing files on establishments and claimants to obtain most of the basic demographic and economic characteristics on the firm and the individual; (3) employer contact by telephone to obtain specific information on the nature of the layoff and the other characteristics of the firm; (4) the identification of the continuing impact of the permanent layoff or plant closing on the individuals by matching affected initial claimants with persons in claim status in each month's UI data base extract; and (5) the identification of the exhaustion of regular State UI benefits by affected workers.

In order to be included in the mass layoff program an establishment has to have at least fifty initial claims for unemployment compensation filed against it in a three-week period. (Some small states require twenty initial claims.) If the establishment meets this requirement, it is contacted by telephone and asked to provide the following information: the total number of separated workers, date and reason(s) for the layoff, whether the layoff lasted at least thirty days, and whether the establishment was remaining open or closing. If the employer indicates that the duration of the layoff is at least 30 days, then the program criteria are met. Once the establishment is identified, the workers are tracked through the state's unemployment insurance system.

New Hampshire has been participating in this program since the second quarter of 1986, but has not had enough layoff activity through 1987 to permit publication of the data under the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) confidentiality guidelines.

The legislative basis for the Permanent Mass Layoff and Plant Closing (PMLPC) Program can be found in Public Law 97-300, the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA). Section 462 (e) provides that the Secretary of Labor shall develop and maintain statistical data relating to permanent layoffs and plant closings and issue a report annually.

To date, forty-nine states and the District of Columbia are participating. It is expected that the program will cover all states during 1988.

Source: United States Department of Labor, **Permanent Mass Layoff and Plant Closing** reports

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